



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/666,522	09/22/2003	Jae Ho Lee	P69150US0	5858

7590 08/10/2004

LAW OFFICES OF JACOBSON HOLMAN
400 SEVENTH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

EXAMINER

SAKRAN, VICTOR N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3677

DATE MAILED: 08/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/666,522

Applicant(s)

LEE ET AL.

Examiner

VICTOR N SAKRAN

Art Unit

3677

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1-5, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over European Patent No. 1,078,828 to Do, in view of Yamaguchi et al U. S. Patent No. 6,427,297 and. Bilyeu et al U. S. Patent No. 5,749,130.

Do '828 discloses the general combination claimed of a seatbelt buckle assembly comprising a housing, a frame, a release button coupled to a frame for unlatching a locking bar of a locking lever from a tongue and an ejector (8) inserted into the

Art Unit: 3677

frame (4) which is supported by a spring member in combination with a micro-switch (40) and a hall sensor assembly (30) are disposed adjacent to both sides of the frame in which the micro-switch includes a cable (41) which selectively connected to an electronic control unit or a warning light and a power source, wherein said hall sensor is directly faced to permanent magnet (32) in order to be energized to force the power source through the resister; see Figures 2-8; the abstract; column 3, lines 41-51; column 4, lines 1-7, 14-24, 28-33, 45-48; claims 1 and 3, except that the reference to Do, does not mount the hall sensor assembly in the lower portion of its housing and the housing formed of a lower case and an upper case including means such as ribs and grooves for determining the positioned of the hall sensor assembly. Yamaguchi et al teaches the use of a buckle assembly comprising a lower case (16) and an upper case (15) and a frame member (2) adapted to be mounted within the lower case in combination with positioning means such as ribs and grooves for securing the buckle assembly together; see Figures 1,2, and the abstract. Bilyeu et al teaches the use of a buckle and an indicator light including a motor mounted within said housing; see 2-3, and the abstract. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the housing in Do, of lower and upper cases including positioning means such as ribs and grooves for mounting its hall sensor assembly in the lower case in the manner taught, disclosed and suggested by Yamaguchi et al and Bilyeu et al and/or by merely providing the buckle assembly in Yamaguchi et al with a hall sensor assembly and to be

Art Unit: 3677

mounted within its lower case in the manner taught and disclosed by Do and Bilyeu et al, especially, since such modification involves only routine skill in the art.

Moreover, the particular location and/or the arrangement selected of an elements is considered to be no more than an obvious matter of design choice to one having ordinary skill within the art, especially, since it has been held that rearranging pa an invention is involves only routine skill in the art. See In Re Japikse, 86 USPQ 70.

Furthermore, Applicant is reminded that in considering the disclosure of a reference, it is proper to take into account not only specific teaching of the reference but also the inferences which one skilled in the art would reasonably be expected to draw therefrom; see In re Preda, 401 F2d 825, 826, 159 USPQ 342,344 (CCPA1968).


The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant's attention is directed to the prior art cited herein, as showing structure related to Applicant's disclosed invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to VICTOR N SAKRAN whose telephone number is 703-308-2224. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. J. swann can be reached on 703-308-4115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

August 4, 2004


VICTOR N SAKRAN
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3677